

Chain Dot Geometer
(*Cingilia catenaria*)

State Status: **Special Concern**

Species Description

Bright yellow patches on head and thorax at base of wings, body otherwise white; wings white with antemedial, postmedial, and terminal “chains” (lines) of black dots and black discal spots. Wingspan 30-40 mm. Larva a bright yellow inchworm, spiracles surrounded by white and flanked with black patches, 25-30 mm when fully grown.

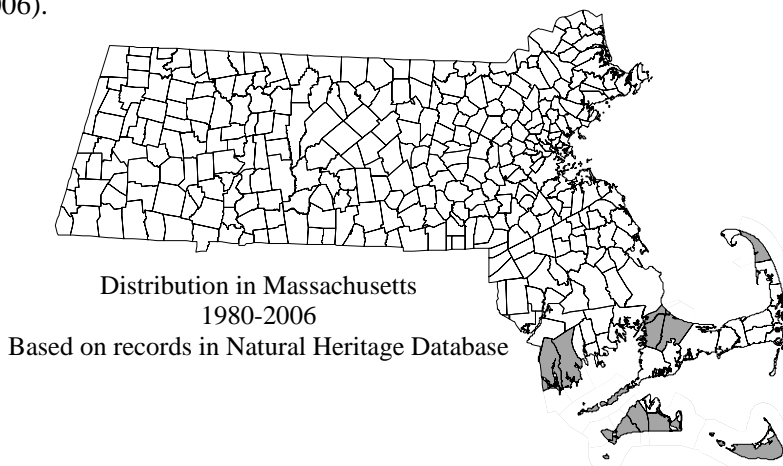


Photo by: Mike Nelson

Global Rarity Ranking	State Rarity Ranking	State Status
G4	S2S3	Special Concern

Distribution and Abundance

There are 29 current occurrences of the Chain Dot Geometer in Massachusetts (NHESP database, accessed June 2006).



Habitat Description

The Chain Dot Geometer inhabits shrubby coastal plain habitats, especially sandplain grasslands and heathlands, dunes, bluffs, and maritime shrublands, occasionally also open-canopy pitch pine/scrub oak barrens. Huckleberries (*Gaylussacia* spp.), blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.), and bayberry and gale (*Myrica* spp.) are favored larval host plants, but this species is polyphagous, especially during “outbreaks.”

Threats

- Loss and degradation of habitat (especially coastal plain shrublands) due to development and succession. This species’ habitat requirements are for open, often fire-dependent habitats, so fire suppression contributes to habitat loss.
- Introduced generalist parasitoids (e.g., *Compsilura concinnata*).
- Insecticide spraying.

Originated: 2006